

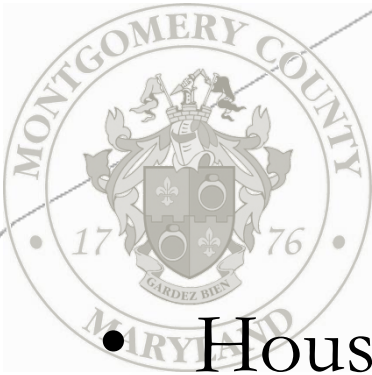


# Emergency Management in Montgomery County, MD



Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security





# Agenda

- Housekeeping (bathrooms, exits, introduction, etc.)
- Short introduction to OEMHS
- Hazards in Montgomery County
- Why Prepare?
- Steps to Preparedness
- Questions













08/12/2010 9:37 am



08/12/2010 9:55 am



08/12/2010 9:34 am





WJLA

AMERICAN  
MORNING

JUST IN

WATER MAIN BREAK CLOSES BELTWAY

LIVE  
CNN

UPDATE This is CNN, the Worldwide Leader in News

4:21 AM PT

















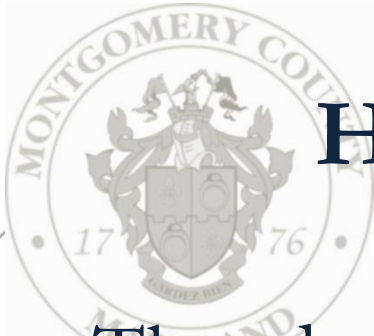












# Hazards within the County

- Thunderstorms
- Winter Storms
- Extreme Heat
- Flooding
- Hurricane/Tropical Storms



\*Obtained from the Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) written in 2012 to identify largest risks to county



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OEMHS/>

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# Thunderstorms/Severe Weather

- Know the difference between a Watch vs. Warning
- Tend to be in late afternoon. Watch the Weather!
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Unplug appliances if possible. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.





## IF YOU ARE:

## THEN:

In a forest



Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees.

In an open area



Go to a low place such as a ravine or valley. Be alert for flash floods.

On open water



Get to land and find shelter immediately.

Anywhere you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike)



Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground. **DO NOT** lie flat on the ground.



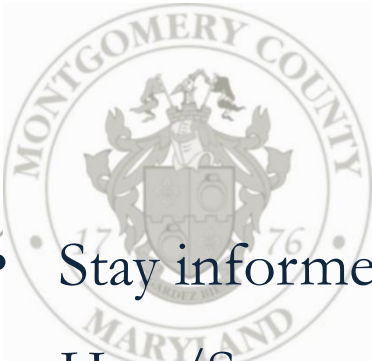


# Winter or Ice Storm

- Include items in your kit (kitty litter, sand, etc.) Stay indoors during the storm if you can.
- Be aware of changing weather conditions.
- Avoid any unnecessary travel, shelter in place.
- Stay warm, wear several layers.
- Avoid overexertion, watch for signs of hypothermia/frostbite.

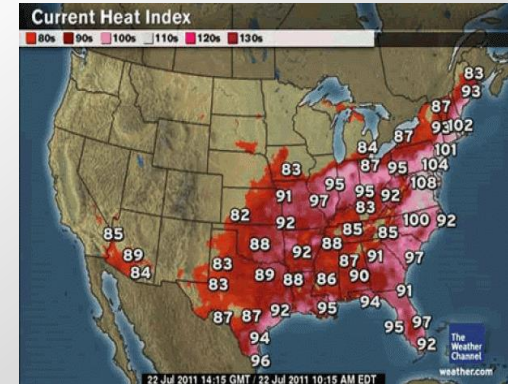




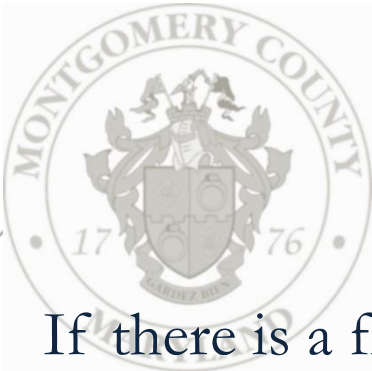


# Extreme Heat

- Stay informed.
- Hats/Sunscreen
- Take breaks if doing outdoor activities
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day indoors
- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available
- Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate!!!







# Flood Emergency

If there is a flood emergency:

- DO NOT enter a flood area!

If you see barricaded roads:

- DO NOT pass the barricades!
- Roads could be gone under water
- Bio- or electrical hazards could be under water (sewage, chemicals, downed power lines, etc.)



It only takes 6 in. of moving water to knock an adult off of their feet

2 feet of moving water can carry away most vehicles





# Tornados

- Usually March through May or June, likely to be in the afternoon/evening hours
- Be alert to changing weather conditions
- May appear nearly transparent until dust/debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel
- Stay indoors! Take shelter in an interior room with no windows or a special tornado shelter room
- If outside, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding
- Use your arms and hands to protect your head and neck
- DO NOT touch electric lines which may be down







# Earthquake

In the event of an earthquake:

- **REMAIN CALM.**
- **DROP** to the ground and take **COVER** by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture and **HOLD ON** until the shaking stops. If there isn't a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- **DO NOT** use a doorway as shelter, unless you know it is a load-bearing doorway.
- **DO NOT** attempt to go outside until the shaking has stopped, stay inside!
- **DO NOT** attempt to turn light switches on and off.
- **DO NOT** light a match.



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# Earthquake (continued)

## After the Earthquake:

- Be aware of aftershocks
- Stay away from buildings that could be have been weakened by the initial shake

**Evacuate the Building Immediately in the event of the following:**

**If you smell or suspect a gas leak. Go to a location where you no longer smell the gas. Report the leak by calling 911.**

**If there is electrical damage. Report the hazard by calling 911.**







# Fire/Smoke

## IF YOU DETECT SMOKE OR FIRE:

- Immediately pull the nearest fire alarm.
- Evacuate to a safe place.
- Call 911 to report the location of the fire. Be specific with the location of the building. 911 may not automatically see your address.

## IF YOU HEAR A FIRE ALARM:

- Immediately evacuate the area using marked emergency exits.
- Do not use elevators
- Do not waste time by gathering your belongings.
- Individuals requiring evacuation assistance should go to the designated area for rescue assistance on their floor and await further instructions.





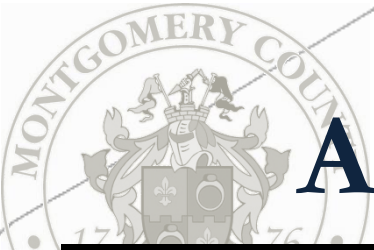
# Medical Emergency

## If there is a medical emergency:

- Call 911 if you believe the injury or illness is life threatening and provide the dispatcher with:
  - ☐ The specific location of the patient and their age (if known);
  - ☐ The nature of the injured person's illness or injury; and
  - ☐ Your name and phone number
- Remain on the line to answer any questions.
- Immediately ask a nearby co-worker to direct rescue units to your location.
- **DO NOT** attempt to move an injured person unless you have been trained.

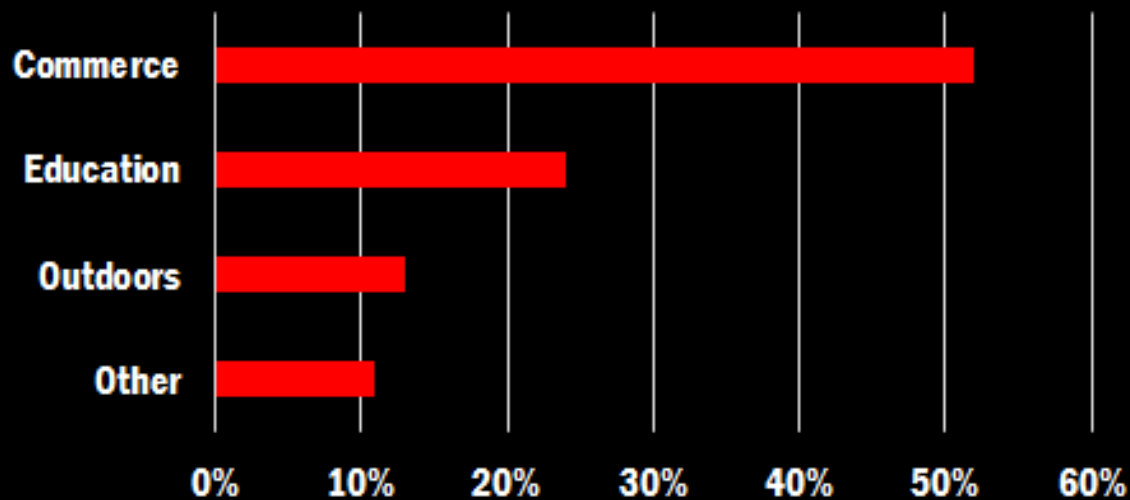






# Active Assailant Events

## Location of Attacks

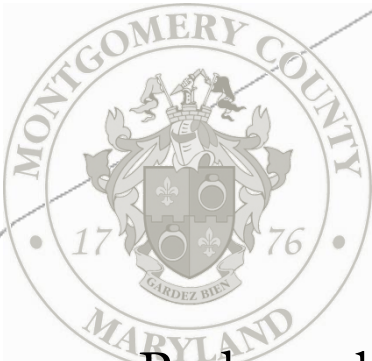


# Avoid Deny Defend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0It68YxLQQ>







# Why Prepare?

- Reduce the fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Denial, deliberation, decision
- Reduce the impact of disasters (flood proofing, securing items that could shake loose in an earthquake, etc.) and sometimes avoid the danger completely.
- Help first responders and emergency managers save lives. Resources of the county can only do so much.



## Kristina Anderson – Virginia Tech





## Rick Rescorla – Morgan Stanley





## Cortez Stewart – Hurricane Katrina



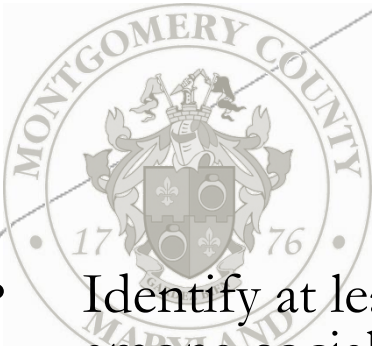




# Step 1 - Stay Informed

- Learn about local hazards and what to do in different situations
- Sign-up for Alert Montgomery
- Read and review information distributed by county through brochures, the website, and Facebook/Twitter
- Watch or listen to the news during an event (watch vs. warning)





## Step 2 - Make a Plan

- Identify at least 2 people to be in your support network (risk of death among socially isolated is greater than that of those who smoke)
- Include what to do if you need to evacuate (pick 2 locations) or shelter in place
- How will you communicate with your loved ones in time of crisis?
- A written plan should include:
  - List of medications
  - Special medical conditions
  - Eyeglass prescription
  - Health insurance
  - Special communication devices/equipment
  - A record of personal property for insurance purposes (photos/videos)
  - Doctors and pharmacist information
- You may also need to consider shelter and transportation







# Step 2 - Make a Plan (cont'd)

## Special Considerations

- Hearing/visual impaired: may need special arrangements to receive warnings
- Non-English speakers may need assistance planning and communicating during a disaster
- Those with special dietary needs should take precautions to have an adequate emergency food supply
- Medications and life-saving treatments: is there an adequate emergency supply, can you pre-schedule treatment?
- Temporary conditions (broken leg, pregnancy, etc.) should register at workplace and take other appropriate measures
- Considerations for pets





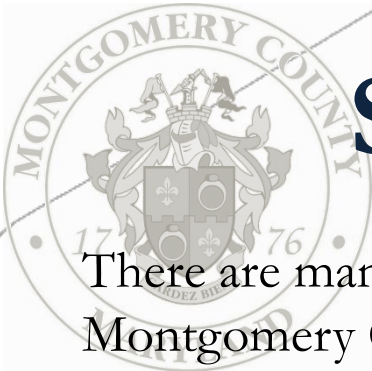
# Step 3 - Build a Kit

- Food and Water (3 days worth)
- Clothes and shoes
- Can opener
- Radio and batteries
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Medication
- Hygiene items
- Important documents
- Contact Information
- Map
- Money
- Make it personal (items for pets, infants, etc.)

**Have at least 3 kits: One for your home, one for your car, and one for work**







# Step 4 - Get Involved

There are many different community groups looking for volunteers in Montgomery County

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- County Animal Response Team (CART)
- The Red Cross
- ESCVs
- Montgomery County COAD





# Any questions?

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Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

